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# For Girls, It's All About Good Looks – Not Good Works

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## For Girls, It's All About Good Looks – Not Good Works

UNH Event On April 11 Focuses On Measures Of Female Self-Worth

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UNH Media Relations

April 5, 2006

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DURHAM, N.H. -- Why do girls think good looks are more important than good works? An event at the University of New Hampshire Tuesday, April 11, 2006, will address that question.

Historian Joan Jacobs Brumberg will speak from 7 to 9 p.m. in Johnson Theatre on her critically acclaimed book, *The Body Project: An Intimate History of American Girls*. Brumberg's work demonstrates how, over the course of the 20th century, good looks rather than good works became the measure of female self-worth. A film documentary created by teenage girls in last summer's Artists In Residence program to express their own complex sense of body image follows. The evening concludes with a panel discussion with Brumberg and the teenage filmmakers.

Brumberg is Stephen H. Weiss Presidential Fellow and professor at Cornell University where she has taught history, human development and gender studies since 1979. She is best known for her sensitive writing and research about American women and girls: *Fasting Girls: The History of Anorexia Nervosa* (1988) won the John Hope Franklin Prize, the Berkshire Book Prize, the Eileen Basker Prize, and the Watson Davis Prize. *The Body Project* (1998) was selected by the American Library Association for a Choice Award and also for special notice by Voice of Youth Advocacy. Her work has been recognized by the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the MacDowell Colony. She is also a fellow of the Society of American Historians.

Sponsored by the Center for the Humanities, Women's Studies, Education, American Studies, and AIR (Artists in Residence, a local nonprofit organization).

**Editors: A downloadable photo of Joan Jacobs Brumberg is available at:**  
<http://www.unh.edu/news/img/liberalarts/Brumberg.tif>.